

# The journal of the Institute of Medical Ethics

The *Journal of Medical Ethics* was established in 1975, with a multidisciplinary editorial board, to promote the study of contemporary medico-moral problems. The editorial board has as its aims the encouragement of a high academic standard for this ever-developing subject and the enhancement of professional and public discussion. The journal is published quarterly and includes papers on all aspects of health care ethics, analyses ethical concepts and theories and features case conferences and comment on clinical practice. Intermittent series focus on the **Teaching of medical ethics**; on the medico-moral problems directly experienced by health care workers (**At the coalface**); on the pursuit of arguments prompted by papers in the journal (**Debate**); on medical ethics in literature (**Medical ethics and literature**); and on briefly argued often unorthodox opinions related to medical ethics (**Point of view**). The journal also contains book reviews and letters.

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traditional political philosophy atrophies, and instead we adopt the language of diagnosis and treatment for analyzing the relations of the citizen to the state. In turn, the abandonment of the perspective of political philosophy explains the pernicious disjoining of the mental patient's rights and responsibilities that has been the hallmark of modern mental health legislation. Illustrative of this phenomenon is the fact that the law treats both institutionalized and deinstitutionalized mental patients as competent to retain their right to vote, but not competent to be held responsible for violating the criminal law. 'The abuse of greatness,' Shakespeare remarks in *Julius Caesar*, 'is when it disjoins remorse from power' (21). Similarly, the abuse of power characteristic of the Therapeutic State is that it disjoins liberty from responsibility. Thus, when psychiatrists deprive innocent persons of freedom (civil commitment), they abuse the right to liberty; and when they excuse persons of crimes (diminished capacity and the insanity defence), they pervert the principle that persons are moral agents who should be held accountable for their actions.

*T S Szasz, MD, is Professor of Psychiatry Emeritus, State University of New York Health Science Center, New York, USA.*

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- (21) Shakespeare W. *Julius Caesar* Act II, Sc 1, line 18.

## News and notes

### Postgraduate opportunities

Applications are invited by the Bioethics Research Centre, Otago Medical School for enrolment in the following postgraduate degrees: Master of Health Sciences, Doctor of Philosophy, Diploma for Graduates, Master of Medical Science and Bachelor of Medical Science. Coursework provides the foundation

for a substantial thesis which can be theoretical or applied.

The closing date for these programmes is November 1. For information please write to: The Bioethics Research Centre, Otago Medical School, PO 913 Dunedin, New Zealand. Tel. (64 3) 474 7977.

*Ann W Bird, MA Lond, BEd (Hons), Sister Tutor's Dip, RCNT, RGN, is senior education manager and head of ethics unit, North West London College of Nursing and Midwifery, Praed Street, London.*

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## News and notes

### Ethical Issues in Health Care

A conference for all health professionals, Ethical Issues in Health Care, will be held at the University of Brighton on 21st and 22nd September this year.

The conference is designed to encourage dialogue on ethical issues in health care between health care professionals and educators from the fields of nursing,

midwifery, medicine, physiotherapy and other professions allied to medicine.

Workshops will include: Ethical issues and communication; Teaching ethics to health professionals; Rationing of health care, and Patient/client choice.

For further details please contact: Jackie Lawrence: tel: 0892 823535 ext 3131; fax: 0892 823137.

## Submitting manuscripts for publication

Papers submitted for publication should be sent **in quadruplicate** to: The Editor, *Journal of Medical Ethics*, c/o Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, 14 Prince's Gardens, London SW7 1NA. The journal considers papers only if they are not under consideration by any other journal at the same time. Rejected manuscripts are not returned. Papers should be in double-spaced typewriting on one side of the paper only. **The preferred maximum length of papers is 3,500 words - absolute maximum 5,500** (including references). A total word count

(including references) is requested. On a separate sheet some brief biographical details should be supplied, including the title of the author's present post, degrees and/or professional qualifications (if any), and any other relevant information.

**Two** copies of the journal will be sent to authors free of charge after their papers are published. Offprints of individual papers may be bought from *Journal of Medical Ethics*, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR.

In March 1981 the *JME* adopted a simplified 'Vancouver style' for

references: details are given in various issues, including December 1990. They are also available from the editorial office. The full text of the 'Vancouver Agreement' was published in the *British Medical Journal* in 1988; volume 296; 401-405. As the 'Vancouver style' is incompatible with the long established style of references for legal articles, lawyers should use their own standard style, but try to facilitate reference by others. The journal is multidisciplinary and **papers should be in clear jargon-free English, accessible to any intelligent reader.**

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- (8) Anonymous [editorial]. Anonymous HIV testing. *Lancet* 1990; 335: 575-576.
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- (10) Lord Chief Justice Coleridge in R v Instan: 'It would not be correct to say that every moral obligation involves a legal duty; but every legal duty is founded on a moral obligation'. 1 QB 450, at 453.
- (11) Saskatchewan regulation 331/79, s (16) (1) and (2) (e).
- (12) Saskatchewan Local Authority Freedom of Information and Privacy Act 1990-1991: ch L-27.1; sections 23 (1) (c) and 28 (1) (k) (i) and (ii).

## News and notes

### Wood Institute Research fellowships

The seven recipients of the 1994 Wood Institute Research fellowships awarded by the College of Physicians of Philadelphia are: Paul Berman, MD, *The Medical Mutual Improvement Society in America, 1720-1835*; Deborah Franklin, University of Pennsylvania, *Controlling the Atom: the Impact of Ionizing Radiation on Human Health, 1895-1942*; Jennifer Gunn, University of Pennsylvania, *Controlling the Population: Ideological Links among Contraception, Life Extension, Public Health, and Population Policy*; Lisa Herschbach, Harvard University, *The Hidden Civil War: Medical and Literary Narratives from the Turner's Lane Hospital*; David McCarter, University of Iowa, *Medical Ideas and the Popular Press in New England, 1680-1820*; Jeffrey A Mullins, Johns Hopkins University, *The Moral Mind: Agency, Psychology, and the Mind-Body Connection in American Thought, 1790-1860*, and Allison Pingree, Harvard University, *'It's Two that Makes the Trouble': Figures of Replication in the Fiction of Mark Twain, Sherwood Anderson, Eudora Welty, and Carson McCullers*.

Established in 1787, the College of Physicians of Philadelphia is one of the oldest honorary, private medical academies in the United States. The resources of this not-for-profit institution include a renowned Library, the Mütter Museum and the Francis C Wood Institute for the History of Medicine. The Wood Institute fellowship programme enables scholars to spend time in residence at the college in order to use its library and museum. The fellowship programme is partially supported by the Women's Committee of the College of Physicians, and supports research in the history of medicine.

The 1994 Scholar-in-Residence fellowship of the Wood Institute for the History of Medicine goes to Dr David M Cantor. Dr Cantor received his BA and PhD from the University of Lancaster, and is currently a Research Fellow in the Department of the History of Science, Medicine, and Technology at Johns Hopkins University. He will be researching Neo-Hippocratism in Inter-War British Medicine.

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## News and notes

### Randomised controlled trials: ethical and legal issues

A two-day course for doctors, nurses and members of research ethics committees to consider the ethical and legal implications of undertaking randomised controlled trials will be held at the British Postgraduate Medical Federation (BPMF) Central Office, 33 Millman Street, London WC1N 3EJ, on the 22nd and 23rd of November 1994.

Sessions covering the rationale and need for controlled trials, how they impinge on the doctor/patient relationship, and the ethical and legal considerations which result will be taken by Professor Michael Baum, Mrs Joan Houghton, Dr Lesley Fallowfield, Mrs Angela Hall, Dr Raanan Gillon, Mrs Claire Gilbert Foster and Mrs Diana Brahams. Each session will include a lecture and

workshop or discussion time. Participants will be invited to present cases of particular interest for discussion.

The course is non-residential but information on accommodation can be provided.

In order to achieve an informal approach numbers will be limited, so early application is advisable.

The course fee is £198 and includes meals and refreshments. (PGEA approved: 12hrs Service Management.)

Further details and application forms are available from: Education Department, BPMF, 33 Millman Street, London WC1N 3EJ. Tel: 071-831 6222 ext 155 or 071-405 5660 (24hr answerphone). Fax: 071-831 1387.

# The Institute of Medical Ethics: working parties and medical groups

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## Working parties

The institute currently has two working parties, one on the ethics of prolonging life and assisting death and the other on the ethical implications of AIDS. The working party on the ethics of prolonging life and assisting death has produced two discussion papers: Assisted death, *Lancet* 1990; 336: 610-613; and Withdrawal of life support from patients in a persistent vegetative state, *Lancet* 1991; 337: 96-98.

The working party on the ethical implications of AIDS has produced four discussion papers: HIV infection: the ethics of anonymised testing and testing pregnant women, *Journal of medical ethics* 1990; 16: 173-178; AIDS and the ethics of clinical care and treatment, *Quarterly journal of medicine* 1992; 302: 419-426; AIDS, ethics and clinical trials, *British medical journal* 1992; 305: 699-701, and

AIDS and the ethics of medical confidentiality, *Journal of medical ethics* 1992; 18: 173-179.

Each discussion paper was written on behalf of the relevant working party by the institute's Research Director, Kenneth Boyd.

## Medical groups

### ABERDEEN MEDICAL GROUP

Dr M D McArthur, Department of Medicine for the Elderly, Wood End Hospital, Aberdeen AB9 2YS

### BIRMINGHAM MEDICAL GROUP

Mr R Sawers, Birmingham Maternity Hospital, Queen Elizabeth Medical Centre, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TG

### BRISTOL MEDICAL GROUP

Dr Oliver Russell, Reader in Mental Health, Bristol University, Department of Mental Health, 41 St Michael's Hill, Bristol BS2 8DZ

### DUNDEE MEDICAL GROUP

Dr David B Walsh, Consultant in Biochemical Medicine, Ninewells Hospital, Dundee DD1 9SY

### EDINBURGH MEDICAL GROUP

Dr Brian Chapman, Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, Lauviston Place, Edinburgh EH3 9YW

### GLASGOW MEDICAL GROUP

Dr E Hillan, Department of Nursing Studies, Glasgow University, Glasgow G12 8QQ

### LEEDS MEDICAL GROUP

Mr Brian Bentley, Principal of the School of Radiography, General Infirmary, Belmont Grove, Leeds LS2 9NS

### LEICESTER MEDICAL GROUP

Dr R K McKinley, Department of General Practice, University of Leicester, Leicester General Hospital, Gwendolen Road, Leicester LE5 4PW

### LIVERPOOL MEDICAL GROUP

Dr Heather Draper, Lecturer in Health Promotion, Department of General Practice, Liverpool University, PO Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX

### LONDON

#### THE UNITED MEDICAL ETHICS GROUP (GUY'S AND ST THOMAS'S HOSPITALS)

Dr Graham Clayden, Reader in Paediatrics, St Thomas's Hospital, Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EH

#### THE ROYAL FREE ETHICS GROUPS

Dr Margaret Lloyd, Department of Public Health and Primary Care, The Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, Pond Street, London NW3 2PF

#### ST GEORGE'S MEDICAL GROUP

Dr N Eastman, St George's Hospital Medical School, London SW17 0RE

#### ST MARY'S HOSPITAL ETHICS FORUM

Jane Tessier-Denham, St Mary's Hospital Ethics Forum, St Mary's Hospital Medical School, Praed Street, London W2

### MANCHESTER MEDICAL GROUP

Dr Geoffrey Jessup, 27 Oakwood Lane, Bowden, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 3DL

### NEWCASTLE MEDICAL GROUP

The Revd Bryan Vernon, Anglican Chaplain, Newcastle University, Department of Primary Health Care, School of Health Care Sciences, The Medical School, Framlington Place, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4HH

### NOTTINGHAM MEDICAL ETHICS GROUP

Dr T C O'Dowd, Department of General Practice, University Hospital and Medical School, Clifton Boulevard, Nottingham NG7 2UH

### SOUTHAMPTON MEDICAL GROUP

The Revd T Pinner, 8 Bassett Close, Southampton SO2 3FP

Medical groups associated with the Institute of Medical Ethics have been established in British university teaching hospitals. Each academic year they arrange programmes of lectures and symposia on issues raised by the practice of medicine which concern other disciplines. Although these programmes are addressed primarily to medical, nursing and other hospital students they are open to all members of the medical, nursing and allied professions. There is no fee for attendance. Lecture lists are available by direct application to the appropriate co-ordinating secretary named above. A stamped addressed A4 envelope would be appreciated.

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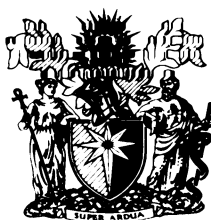
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CONFERENCE FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

**ETHICAL ISSUES  
IN THE  
TREATMENT OF  
CHILDHOOD CANCER**

Thursday 30 to Friday 31 March 1995  
Parkway Hotel, Leeds

Contact: Phillipa Kemp  
Yorkshire Regional Cancer Organisation  
Cookridge Hospital  
Leeds LS16 6QB  
Telephone: (0532) 924403 (direct line)



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The Institute of Medical Ethics is an organisation for research, education and information in the broad area of health care ethics. It is financed by grants from charitable bodies, government sources and members' subscriptions.

It was established as the Society for the Study of Medical Ethics, and is an independent, non-partisan organisation for the dispassionate multidisciplinary study of medico-moral issues raised by the practice of medicine.

The institute aims to help improve the quality of both professional and public discussion of medico-moral questions; to promote the study of medical ethics; to promote high academic standards for this ever developing subject; to encourage a multidisciplinary approach to discussion of the consequences of clinical practice; to stimulate research into specific problems, and to remain non-partisan and independent of all interest groups and lobbies.

Institute reports include: *The Ethics of Resource Allocation in Health Care* by Kenneth Boyd, on ethical issues arising from scarcity of health care resources; *Dilemmas of Dying* by Ian Thompson, on ethical issues arising in the care of the dying, both published by the Edinburgh University Press; *Medical Research with Children: Ethics, Law and Practice* by Richard Nicholson, an analysis of the ethics of clinical research investigations on children, published by the Oxford University Press; *Life Before Birth* by Kenneth Boyd, Brendan Callaghan and Edward Shotter, published by SPCK; *Lives in the Balance: the Ethics of Using Animals in Biomedical Research*, edited by Jane Smith and Kenneth Boyd, published by Oxford University Press; *Teaching and Learning Nursing Ethics*, edited by Ursula Gallagher and Kenneth Boyd, published by Scutari, and *The Pond Report on the Teaching of Medical Ethics*, which was published directly for the institute.

Among shorter recent institute reports are: Assisted Death, *Lancet*, 1990; HIV infection: the ethics of anonymised testing and of testing pregnant women, *Journal of Medical Ethics*, 1990; and HIV infection and AIDS: the ethics of medical confidentiality, *Journal of Medical Ethics*, 1992, each written by the institute's Research Director, Kenneth Boyd, on behalf of institute working parties.

The institute derives from the London Medical Group, a student group for the study of ethical issues raised by the practice of medicine which, beginning in 1963, arranged a comprehensive programme of lectures and symposia on such issues. Similar groups associated with the institute are now established in university teaching hospitals at Aberdeen, Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Newcastle and Southampton.

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